Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, China · 4-15 September 1995

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Fact Sheet

What: The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Where: Beijing, China

When: 4-15 September 1995

Why: To review and appraise the advancement of women since 1985 in terms of the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000.

To mobilize women and men at both the policy-making and grass-roots levels to achieve those objectives.

To adopt a "Platform for Action", concentrating on some of the key issues identified as representing a fundamental obstacle to the advancement of the majority of women in the world. It will include elements relating to awareness-raising, decision-making, literacy, poverty, health, violence, national machinery, refugees and technology.

To determine the priorities to be followed in 1996-2001 for implementation of the Strategies within the United Nations system.

Who: Participants and observers will include Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, non-governmental organizations, experts and professional associations.

Gertrude Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania) was appointed Secretary-General of the Conference in December 1992.

United Nations

Preparatory Process:

The Vienna-based Commission on the Status of Women is acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. It and other bodies will meet throughout 1993 and 1994 as part of the preparatory process. A preliminary calendar of relevant United Nations meetings follows:

1993

Vienna, 15-16 March	17th Inter-agency Meeting on Women
Vienna, 15-16 March	NGO Planning Committee consultations
Vienna, 17-26 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 37th session
Addis Ababa, May	Regional expert group meeting on African plan of action
Vienna, 13-17 September	Expert group meeting on measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society
Vienna, 8-12 November	Expert group meeting on women in urban areas
November	Asian regional NGO forum
Late 1993	Regional expert group meeting on Western Asian plan of action

1994

Tunisia, February or May	Regional expert group meeting on African plan of action
March	18th Inter-agency Meeting on Women
March	NGO Planning Committee consultations
Vienna, March	Commission on the Status of Women, 38th session
Indonesia, May	Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference
Finland, 1-6 August	Nordic Forum
Argentina, September	Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference
Dakar, September/October	African Regional Preparatory Conference
November	Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference

Documents before the Conference:

- Draft Platform for Action.
- A report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.
- 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development.
- Updated edition of *The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics*.
- Outcome of regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference.
- Updated compendium on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- National reports to be prepared by Governments as a basis for future national action.

Conference background:

There have been three world conferences on women. The first conference (Mexico City, 1975) led to the declaration by the General Assembly of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). At Copenhagen in 1980, participants adopted a Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. The third conference (Nairobi, 1985) adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000. The Strategies provide a framework for action at the national, regional and international levels to promote greater equality and opportunity for women. They are based on the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women--equality, development and peace.

For further information:

Conference Secretariat: Division for the Advancement of Women, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
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Information materials available from the Division for the Advancement of Women:

Women 2000 (quarterly newsletter; in English, French and Spanish)
Conference '95 (semi-annual newsletter, beginning in June 1993; in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

How non-governmental organizations can participate:

The Conference is specifically mandated to cooperate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both during the World Conference itself and at the parallel forum to be organized by the NGOs. Attendance at the Conference will, however, be restricted to representatives of those NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. For information on NGO participation in the Conference, contact the Division for the Advancement of Women, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Tel. 431/21131, Ext. 4270, Fax 431/237-495.

The parallel forum is being planned and organized by an NGO Committee established by the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO). Attendance at the Forum will be open to all interested women and men.

Sixty international NGOs are currently members of the Planning Committee. Their representatives in Geneva, New York and Vienna, as well as representatives in the regions, are organizing three pre-conference consultations in 1993-1995, regional meetings in conjunction with the United Nations regional meetings, and the Forum itself.

For information on the NGO Forum, contact Marlene Parenzan, Forum Coordinator, Kirchengasse 26/14, A-1070 Vienna, Austria, Tel. and Fax 431/526-1899.

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